

Primary succession is the establishment of a communities in an area of exposed rock that does not have any topsoil. An example of primary succession is when exposed rock is in an area. When lichens grow, soil is created and eventually enough soil is present.

Secondary succession is the orderly and predictable change that takes place after a community of organisms that has been removed but the soil has remained intact. An example is after a forest fire, new species of plants and animals invade and new pioneer species come into the area.